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PORTUGAL.

Plague at Oporto.

LISBON, *September 25, 1899.*

SIR: I take the liberty of forwarding another series of sanitary bulletins from September 16 to September 22, 1899, both dates included, relating to the plague in Oporto.

In my dispatch No. 141 I send bulletins up to September 15 included.

[The bulletins referred to report 7 new cases and 1 death from plague.]

Respectfully, yours, J. H. THIERIOT,
Chargé d' Affaires.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

RUSSIA.

Device to prevent rats coming ashore from ships.

[*From advance sheets consular reports No. 549.*]

Consul Heenan writes from Odessa, August 28, 1899:

I saw the other day a curious device attached to the mooring rope or cable of a steamer which was loading at this port. The cable was run through a piece of iron pipe about a foot in length, and welded on the end of the pipe was a flange or funnel which looked like the end of a trumpet, with the wide end facing the ship. The iron pipe was stuffed with oakum, to prevent it from slipping and also to prevent rats from passing through it. This novel construction was quite close to the ship. On inquiring what purpose this device served, I was informed that the Russian authorities furnished these appliances and obliged all ships to use them whenever they came from a port infected with the plague, in order to prevent the rats on the ship from coming on shore. It is generally conceded that the plague has been carried and spread by rats which have left ships coming from infected ports. It is known that rats make use of the cable to come on shore, and this iron pipe with its funnel-shaped arrangement was employed to prevent such visits, if possible. These devices are attached to each cable by which the ship is moored. In addition to this precaution, the master of the ship is obliged to take down his loading stages every night and erect them again the following morning, in order to prevent the rats from coming on shore during the night. I do not know whether this device is known to our sanitary authorities, and I send this description of it in the hope that it may be of service.

TURKEY.

Plague at Bassorah.

The United States consul at Bagdad reports by cablegram as follows:

BAGDAD, *October 16, 1899.*—Plague, Bassorah—*United States Consul.*

URUGUAY.

Quarantine regulations at Montevideo against plague.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., October 14, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose copy of a dispatch from the United States minister to Uruguay forwarding copy of the quarantine regula-